

# Black Film Festival



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# Newark 1979

**Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.**

**June 20 & 27, July 5, 11, 18 & 25**

**Admission Free**

**Van Houten Library Theatre at**

**New Jersey Institute of Technology, 99 Summit St., Newark**

**Co-sponsors:**

**The Newark Museum • The Newark Public Library • N.J. Institute of Technology • Newark College-Rutgers University**

JUNE  
**20**

**THE GREAT FORERUNNER : PAUL ROBESON**

Greetings: Mayor Kenneth L. Gibson  
Commentary: John Kuiper, Director, International  
Museum of Photography  
Paul Robeson, Jr., author, historian  
Piano accompaniment: William Perry

**Body and Soul**, featuring Paul Robeson  
57 mins./b&w/1924. International Museum of Photography.

Rare and seldom shown film by famed pioneer black director  
Oscar Micheaux, probably his finest. Paul Robeson, in his first  
film appearance, plays the dual role of gambler and preacher.  
Penetrating account of a black community in rural Georgia.

JUNE  
**27**

**FROM THESE ROOTS : BLACK HISTORY & FOLKWAYS**

Commentary: Maurice M. Martinez, filmmaker

**Georgia Sea Island Singers**  
12 mins./b&w/1974. Film Images.

Cut off by swamp and sea from the Georgia mainland, St.  
Simon's Island was, until recent years, a haven for  
independent black communities with a language and life of  
their own. This film records some of the traditional religious  
activities and music of the Georgia Sea Island Singers.

**St. Louis Blues**  
15 mins./b&w/1929. Kit Parker Films.

Bessie Smith gives full, eloquent power to W.C. Handy's  
classic song. The only known film featuring Bessie Smith.

**I Shall Moulder Before I Shall Be Taken**  
58 mins./color/1978. EDC Distribution Center.

The Djuka Tribes are descendants of West Africans who  
were captured and brought to Dutch Guiana (now Surinam)  
in South America as laborers for the Dutch plantation owners  
in the 1600s. The slaves rebelled and escaped into the jungle  
to establish a black tribal society in the New World,  
successfully resisting all attempts to recapture them. The  
Djukas have continued to live free, preserving their ancient  
African culture.

**Black Indians of New Orleans**  
33 mins./color/1976. CMI Folklore Films International.

The Black Indian Tribes, or "Mardi Gras Indians" —  
descendants of American Indians and former African slaves  
— of New Orleans are featured: ritual practices, music,  
dance, costumes, folk art and social organization. Produced  
by Maurice M. Martinez.

JULY  
**5**  
(Thursday)

**AFRICA : IN FOCUS**

Commentary: Dr. James Mutambirwa,  
History Dept., Rutgers University, Newark.

**Kongi's Harvest**  
85 mins./color/1977. New Line Cinema.

First full-length feature film from English-speaking Africa,  
directed by filmmaker/actor Ossie Davis and a leading  
African playwright, Wole Soyinka. Political and religious  
struggle of the Yoruba people of Southern Nigeria dramatizes  
their life and culture.

JULY  
**11**

**CONTEMPORARY BLACK FILMMAKERS**

Commentary: Roy Campanella, Jr., filmmaker  
Oliver Franklin, filmmaker

**Pass/Fail**  
36 mins./color/1976-77. Pass/Fail Productions.

Drama about the struggle of a black filmmaker to raise funds  
for a socially relevant documentary.

**Portrait of a Black College**  
60 mins./color/1979. Oliver Franklin.

A documentary of Lincoln University in Chester County, Pa. —  
its founding in 1854, growth, and influence in the years since.  
The role of a black institution in the era of integration. The  
tribute of an alumnus to his University.

JULY  
**18**

**BLACK DRAMA ON FILM**

Commentary: Amiri Baraka, author

**The Dutchman**  
55 mins./b&w/1967. Kit Parker Films.

Film version of Imamu Amiri Baraka's award-winning play. A  
white woman encounters a black man on a subway. An  
electrifying drama, centering on racial hatred. Because of the  
explicit nature of the film, it is recommended for an ADULT  
AUDIENCE ONLY.

JULY  
**25**

**BLACK LEADERS/BLACK IDEAS**

Commentary: Gil Noble, commentator, film producer

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: An Amazing Grace**  
62 mins./color-b&w/1978. McGraw-Hill Films; Essex-Hudson  
Film Center.

Powerful and realistic portrait of Dr. King, produced by Gil  
Noble, in which Dr. King narrates his own story. Dr. King's  
stirring and evocative speeches provide a first-hand account  
of the "peaceful warrior" who proclaimed that violence was  
not the answer.

**El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz : Malcolm X**  
58 mins./b&w/1978. McGraw-Hill Films.

An Emmy-Award-winning film chronicle of Malcolm X —  
produced, written and narrated by Gil Noble. This  
presentation focuses on the qualities and characteristics that  
led to Malcolm X's rise as a leader and outstanding  
spokesman of the Black American movement.

NOTE: Theatre doors open at 6:30 p.m., performances begin at 7:30 p.m. each  
evening. Because of fire protection regulations, there will be no standing at perform-  
ances; once the theatre is filled to capacity, there will be no further admissions.



1979 is the fifth year of the Newark Black Film Festival, a six-week Festival of films by black filmmakers and films featuring the history and culture of the black people of America, and elsewhere on occasion. Each program will be introduced by a speaker well versed in the evening's subject.

The Festival has been arranged and the films selected by a committee representing the sponsors and the community:

Mrs. Gloria Buck, Social Worker, Child Guidance Dept., Newark Board of Education.

Clement Price, Assist. Professor of History, Rutgers University, Newark.

John Abram, Acting Librarian, Newark Public Library.

James Brown, Senior Librarian, Black Studies, Newark Public Library.

Mrs. Marjorie W. Fredricks, Supervisor of Programs, The Newark Museum.

Ms. Mary Sue Sweeney, Supervisor of Public Relations, The Newark Museum.

Robert Fryer, Director of Public & Institute Relations, N.J. Institute of Technology.

Partial funding for the Festival has been provided by a foundation grant and a friend of the Museum. Application has been made to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for additional funding.

Sources of Festival films have been indicated with each entry. Source addresses are:

CMI Folklore Films International, 1767 N. Roman St., New Orleans, La. 70116. 504-945-4874 (or 899-2085).

Education Development Center (EDC), 39 Chapel St., Newton, Mass. 02160. 617-969-7100.

Essex Hudson Film Center, 21 S. Arlington Ave., East Orange, N.J. 07018. 201-268-5625.

Film Images, 1034 Lake Street, Oak Park, Ill. 60301. 312-386-4826.

International Museum of Photography, 900 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Kit Parker Films, Carmel Valley, Cal. 93924. 408-659-3474 or 408-659-4131.

McGraw-Hill Films, 110 Fifteenth St., Del Mar, Cal. 92014.

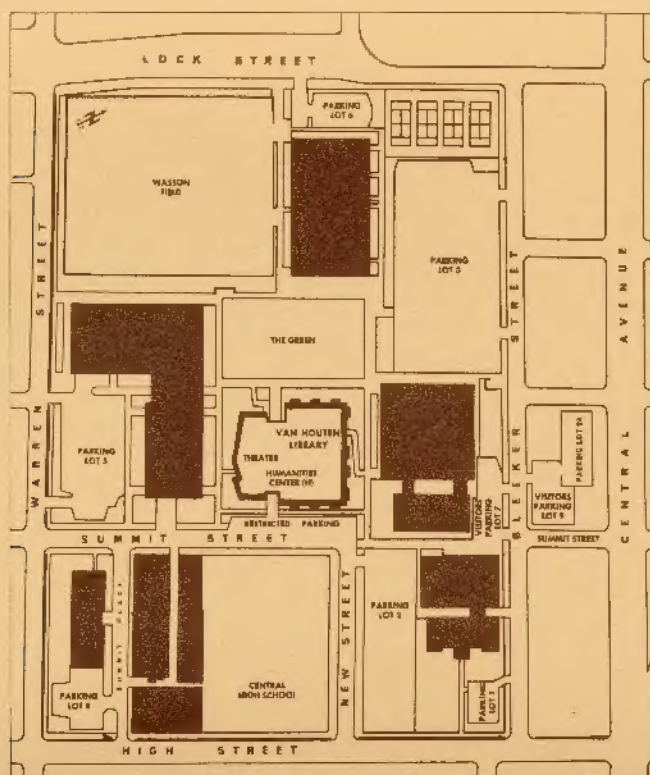
New Line Cinema, 853 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003. 212-674-7460.

New Yorker Films, 16 W. 61st St., New York, N.Y. 10023. 212-247-6110.

Oliver Franklin, c/o Afro-American Historical & Cultural Museum, 7th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia, Pa., 19106. 215-574-3670.

Pass/Fail Productions, 110 Morningside Dr. #27, New York, N.Y. 10027. 212-749-7452.

For information call  
The Newark Museum:  
733-6642 or -6600.





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P.O. Box 540  
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